

Subj: **Watermarks in paper currency**
Date: 8/1/2006 11:35:33 AM Central Standard Time
From: JBIDWELL@themorgan.org
To: EricNumis@aol.com
CC: mntomasko@worldnet.att.net

Dear Mr. Newman,

Mark Tomasko has forwarded to me your inquiry about watermarking techniques — a subject of some interest to me as I have been collecting watermarks for a directory of American paper mills and papermakers, 1690-1830. For a good explanation of how the wire profile was formed and fastened to the mould surface I would suggest:

Author/Artist| Loeber, E. G. (Edo G.), 1902-
Title| Paper mould and mouldmaker / by E.G. Loeber.
Published/Created| Amsterdam : Paper Publications Society, 1982.
Description| xvii, 83 p., 125 p. of plates : ill. ; 31 cm.

The illustrations in Loeber's book are particularly helpful. If there is anything you would like to discuss, please give me a call at your convenience (212-590-0370).

Sincerely yours,

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Subj: **Watermarks**
Date: 9/12/2006 2:01:25 PM Central Standard Time
From: JBIDWELL@themorgan.org
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Mr. Newman,

I have now had a chance to look at the fourth edition of your Continental Currency and am in a better position to answer your questions about watermarking techniques. The samples you illustrate on p. 56 all seem to me to be made by the same method, a series of wire profiles bent in the shapes of letters and stitched on the surface of the mould. Looks to me like the PENSYL | VANIA watermark was made of a heavier gauge wire, but I see what you mean about its unusual shape, and I almost wonder if someone was experimenting with stitching some kind of a thin strip on the mould as an additional deterrent to forgery. Judging from the clumsy lettering the counterfeit UNITED | STATES watermark was not made by a professional mouldmaker, but I can testify that other earlier watermarks were equally crude, possibly because some American papermakers improvised their own watermarks instead of paying for the services of a professional. In any case I am sure that that watermark was made by the standard wire profile. And by the way I am intrigued by the type as well: the genuine note on p. 211 has the text "State of Massachusetts-Bay" set in a decorative type, which the forger's printer did not own, and so was obliged to emulate the lettering as a woodcut — not very successfully in my opinion.

I am very glad to have a copy of your book, and I look forward to learning more about paper in continental currency. If you have any more questions, I am at your service.

Best regards,

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